

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 481
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the officers and crew of the USS Dashiell (DD 659) on the occasion of their 22nd reunion and to welcome them to Nashville and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to specially recognize those courageous veterans of World War II who left home and family more than sixty years ago to face down and defeat a terrible threat to the liberty and security of our nation and others; that threat was embodied in the Axis powers of Nazi Germany, fascist Italy, and the Empire of Japan; and

WHEREAS, one such valiant group of veterans is composed of the officers and crew of the USS Dashiell (DD 659), commissioned March 20, 1943, in Brooklyn, New York, and arriving in the Pacific on July 10, 1943; on the week of Friday, June 13 through Thursday, June 19 surviving crew members and their families will celebrate their 22nd reunion in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Dashiell, at a displacement of 2,050 tons, a length of 376 feet, 5 inches, and a beam of 39 feet, 4 inches, sailed a top speed of over 35 knots with a crew complement of 300; she was armed with five 5-inch 38 caliber dual purpose guns, 20 and 40-mm AA guns and ten 21-inch torpedo tubes; and

SJR0481

00776056

WHEREAS, from August to October, 1943, the Dashiell operated out of Pearl Harbor, participating in carrier strikes on Marcus Island, Tarawa, and Wake Island; on November 20, 1943, along with her Division, she stood into Tarawa lagoon, her guns taking out shore batteries, pill boxes, enemy strong points, and an ammunition dump while spearheading Tarawa's occupation. A collision with an uncharted reef sent the Dashiell to Puget Sound Navy Yard for repairs; and

WHEREAS, in February of 1944, the Dashiell made its way via Pearl Harbor, Fanafuti, and Tolagi to rendezvous with a battleship task force to bombard Kavieng, New Ireland, on March 20, silencing enemy batteries in a three and a half hour exchange; having been assigned to Seventh Fleet operations along the New Guinea coast, the Dashiell participated in the Humboldt Bay landing in April and then proceeded to the Solomons to train for the Marianas campaign; and

WHEREAS, the Dashiell was part of the floating reserve for Saipan and provided fire support for the Guam landings on July 21, eliminating many enemy targets and engaging an enemy submarine; she then rejoined Seventh Fleet in September, and in October she participated in reinforcing troop landings on Morotai Island in the Dutch East Indies; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the Central Phillippine Attach Force, the Dashiell left Hollandia on October 13, 1944, to cover landings on Panaon Island; in November she shot down an attacking Japanese suicide plane, the first of several that she was to encounter; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 1944, the Dashiell sortied from Leyte Gulf with an amphibious group bound for Mindoro and on the second day took on the admiral and commanding general when the flagship was taken out by Kamikaze attack; the Dashiell returned to Leyte having survived numerous air attacks and received a much-deserved "Well Done" for her takeover as flagship; and

WHEREAS, on December 20 at Leyte Gulf, the Dashiell again survived a suicide attack by shooting down a plane, and in January of 1945, she was part of the attack force entering

Lingayen Gulf, Luzon; on January 10, the Dashiell escaped another suicide attack, and on January 11, in company with other destroyers, she intercepted a 21-ship Japanese convoy attempting to land reinforcements, sinking four cargo vessels and destroying several targets on land; and

WHEREAS, having proceed via Manus to Ulithi in February to join a fast carrier Task Group of the Fifth Fleet, the Dashiell then participated in the bloody Okinawa operation assigned to radar picket station; in March and April, she experienced a near miss with a torpedo, shot down a Japanese plane jointly with the Segsbee and the Murray, and avoided more close calls with suicide planes; on April 14, the picket group of which she was a part was patrolling close to the Okinawa coast and came under the attack of 20 Japanese planes, and in the half hour exchange her gunners never ceased firing, even when the bomb on a crashing plane 50 feet off port almost lifted the vessel out of the water; and

WHEREAS, all told, the Dashiell fired on seven enemy planes and knocked down four during that afternoon; she again had to act as relief flagship when the commander's vessel was hit, and served well in that capacity until she was compelled to return to Ulithi for repairs; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, the Dashiell sortied with Task Group 38.1 and on June 5 passed with the Task Group through the eye of a typhoon, experiencing rolls of up to 52 degrees; after a respite in Leyte Gulf, she embarked upon her final wartime sortie on July 1, 1945; and

WHEREAS, engaging in an operation of strikes along Japan's east coast, the Dashiell, on July 14, began participating in a shipping sweep off northern Honshu; on the night of July 30 her squadron penetrated thirty miles inside Suruga Wan, a bay just below Tokyo, to bombard a rail center and aluminum plant. While on that strike, the Dashiell detected a 2000 ton cargo ship in the harbor of Shimizu and launched two torpedoes believed to have sunk the vessel; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, the Dashiell covered the USS Murray while the latter placed a prize crew aboard a surrendered Japanese submarine, and on September 6, the USS Dashiell dropped anchor in Tokyo Bay as the War in the Pacific came to an end; and

WHEREAS, the brave deeds and courageous service of the officers and crew of the USS Dashiell are part of the heroic tapestry of World War II and are woven into the our national history and collective memory of our citizens; as such, they are worthy of our special recognition and grateful acknowledgement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the brave officers and crew of the USS Dashiell, along with their families, in remembering their deeds of heroism, their faithful execution of duty, their selfless sacrifices, and the bountiful lives of their shipmates who have passed on from this life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our heartiest welcome to the officers and crew members of the Dashiell as they celebrate their 22nd reunion in Nashville from June 13-19, 2003, our best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable occasion, and thank them for their outstanding services to and sacrifices for our liberty and way of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.